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Contact:

Sarah Driever, Eau Claire Healthy Communities Council Co-Chair
(651) 964-1141 ext. 406, sdriever@anufs.org

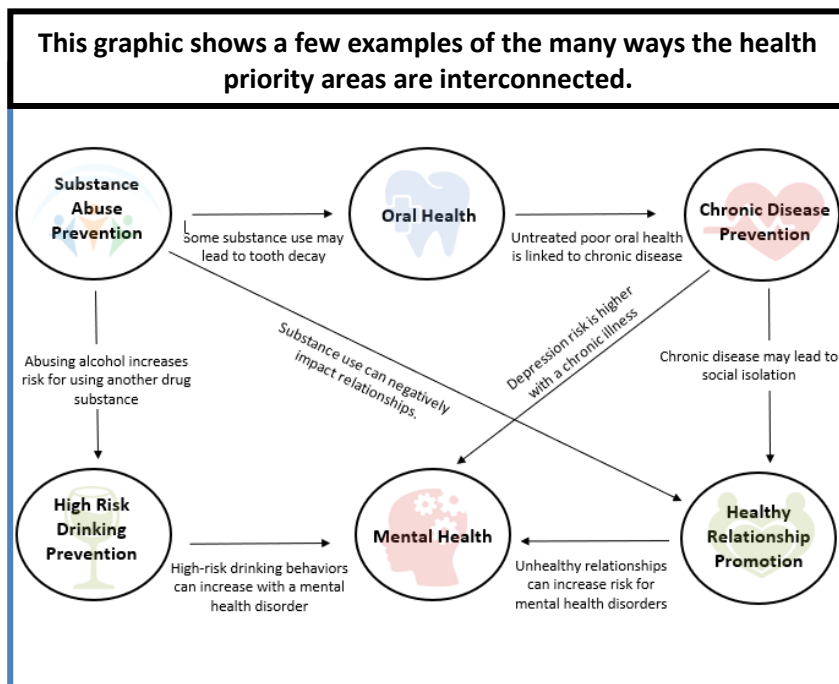
Healthy Communities Releases Community Health Improvement Plan

EAU CLAIRE, Wis.-November 29th, 2018th -Eau Claire Healthy Communities released its Community Health Improvement Plan this week—the culmination of a collaborative effort by a diverse coalition of residents, community organizations, schools, health care providers, businesses, faith communities and government agencies. The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) aims to mobilize residents, organizations, and stakeholders to work together to prevent health issues identified by the community in the assessment process that happened this spring. The CHIP outlines action for creating a healthy Eau Claire in the following health focus areas: chronic disease prevention, healthy relationship promotion, high-risk alcohol use, mental health, and substance abuse.

"This community health improvement plan will be one of the tools that we use to make our community a healthier, safer place to live," says Sarah Driever, Co-Chair of Healthy Communities.

The identified health priorities of Eau Claire County have a significant impact on the health of our community.

- Between 40%-53% of Eau Claire County residents who visited a healthcare provider in 2015/2016 are obese. Obesity rates in rural zip codes were found to be up to 10% higher than rates in zip codes located within the city of Eau Claire
- In Eau Claire County, 28% of residents (age 2+) have not had a dental visit in the past year.
- The economic cost of binge drinking in Eau Claire County is \$160.4 million per year, a cost of \$1,624 to each resident.
- Over the past 10 years, the average number of mentally unhealthy days have increased 1.5 days for Eau Claire County residents.



"These are very complex health issues in our community, as each health priority is interconnected with other priorities. But we are committed to joining forces around these important health concerns," says Driever. To learn more about Healthy Communities or to download a copy of the Community Health Improvement Plan, please visit the Healthy Communities website: www.ehealthycommunities.org.